

Fill in the blanks as rapidly as you can. Do not think. Write. If you have no reflex response, go on to the next sentence. Stop writing when you slow down.

1. A spider on an old man's beard is like _____
2. The oars on the boat rowed as if _____
3. Nothing was the same, now that it was _____
4. The wino took to coma like _____
5. The dice rolled out of the cup toward Len like _____
6. A child in _____ is like a _____ in _____
7. Puffy clouds in your glass of wine are _____
8. _____ is like muscles stretched taut over bone.
9. The fog plumed through the gunshot holes in the train windows like _____
10. The gray honor walked up the satin plank as if _____
11. Canceled checks in the abandoned boat seemed _____
12. If I should wake before I die, _____
13. Alannah poured coffee down her throat as if _____
14. Up is like down when _____
15. You mine rocks from a quarry. What you get from a quandary is _____
16. Marlene dangled the parson from her question as if _____
17. She held her life in her own hands as if it were _____
18. "No, no, a thousand times no," he said, his hand _____
19. The solution was hydrochloric acid; the problem was, therefore, _____
20. Love is to open sky as loathing is to _____

Reread the sentences you've finished, circling a couple you like best. Begin a poem using a simile/metaphor/analogy you've written.

This exercise asks you to go through a slew of sentences creating image, metaphor, analogy, connection, filling in whichever blanks catch your fancy, leaving blank those that do not trigger any response. The exercise teaches by showing, not telling.

It also causes silliness—an added benefit.